SOUTH VIET NAM In struggle

6th Year — May 29, 1972

No 149

Address: HT 1217 B-SVN
c/o DAZIMINA HANOI
19, Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN
and all RSVN Embassies, Information Bureaux in foreign countries

CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

2 NOV
Copy 1972

Nixon is playing with fire

On May 19 at the solemn meeting held to mark the 82nd birth anniversary of President Ho Chi Minh, President Nguyen Huu Tho delivered an important speech. Following are its main parts:

TODAY, in the stirring atmosphere of the South Viet Nam liberation armed forces and people's offensives and uprisings, we meet here to solemnly mark the 82nd birth anniversary of our venerated President Ho Chi Minh, the founder of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and leader of our people's liberation struggle. He is the genial leader of the Viet Nam revolution. His life is closely associated with every step of our nation's glorious history in over half a century. He has brought the light of revolution to our nation. He has mobilized, organised and led our people to rise up, be masters of their own destiny and bring into full play the national strength to dash forward and score victories. President Ho Chi Minh's life is a shining example of industry, thrift, uprightness, integrity, total dedication to the public interest and complete selflessness. He is the embodiment of the national militant unity, the key to all successes in our struggle against foreign invasion. He is the great friend of all peoples in the world who are fighting for their own emancipation.

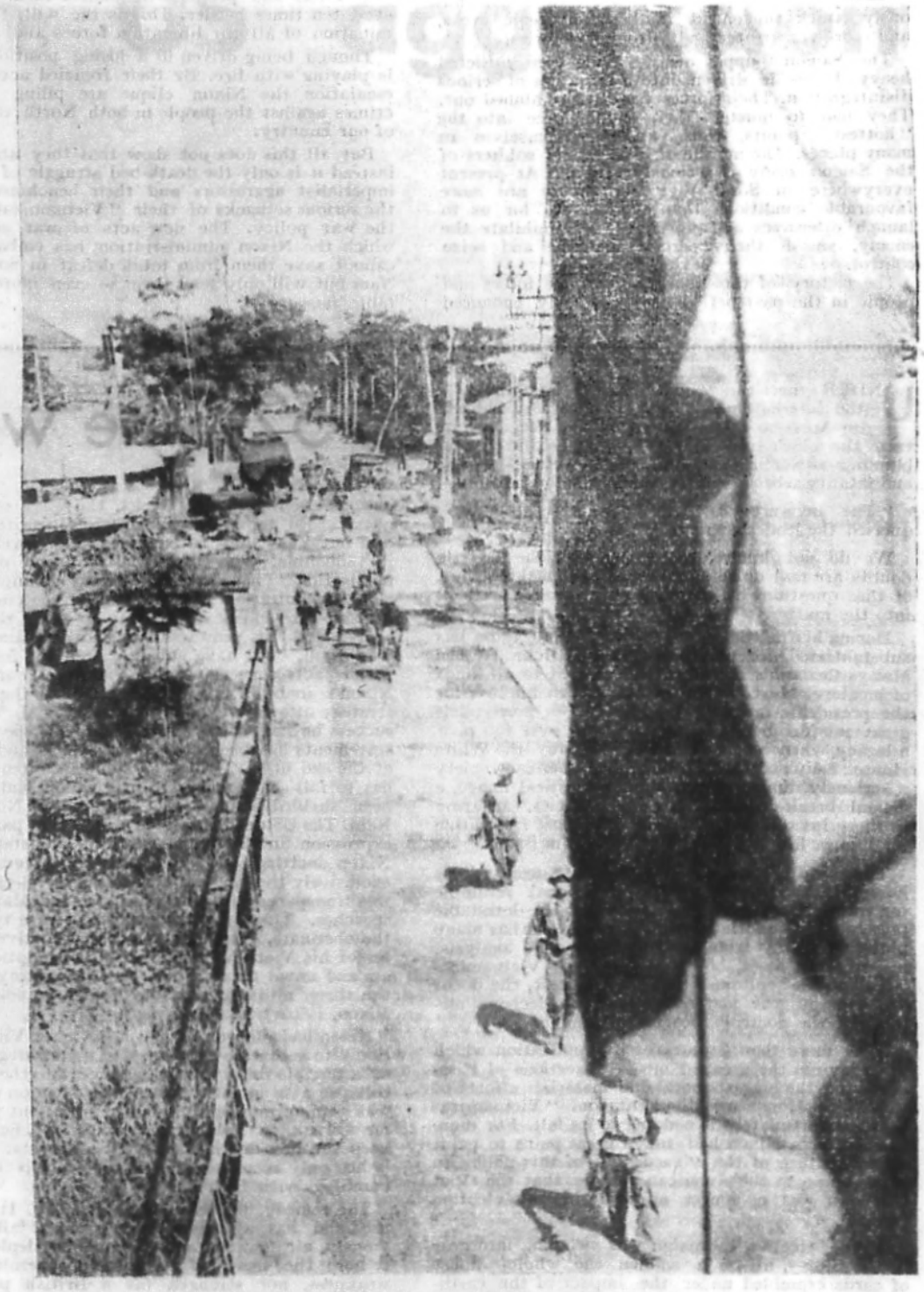
South Viet Nam has always remained in his heart. He often said: "As long as the Fatherland is not reunified, as long as my countrymen in the South suffer, I can not eat with appetite, nor sleep soundly" and repeatedly emphasized: "Viet Nam is one, the Vietnamese nation is one, the mountains may wear out and the rivers may dry up but that truth never changes". By all forms of struggle, the South Viet Nam liberation armed forces and people in nearly twenty years have foiled one after another all the strategies of the US imperialists.

SINCE the Mau Than (1968) Spring offensives and concerted uprisings, the South Viet Nam liberation armed forces and people have unceasingly dashed forward in the impetus of their victory, broken all the Nixon administration's military adventures and brought the South Viet Nam revolution to a new stage. We have entered this Spring with the new situation favorable to our resistance to US aggression, for national salvation.

(Continued on page 2)

Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom

HO CHI MINH



Wherever they appear, the RSVN flag and the PLAF fighters bring in freedom to the population

Nixon ...

(*Continued from page 1*)

Bringing into full play their initiative on all battlefields and putting into effect the determination of the NFL Central Committee and the RSVN PRG, the South Viet Nam liberation armed forces have launched violent offensives and concerted uprisings from the northern province of South Viet Nam to the Mekong river delta.

In nearly 50 days of repeated offensives and uprisings, the South Viet Nam liberation armed forces and people have dealt stunning blows at the adversary and wiped out a large portion of the enemy's most seasoned live forces and destroyed a large quantity of their equipment. We have smashed many of their strong military complexes and defence lines including the defence complexes of Quang Tri-Dong Ha, Binh Long-Tay Ninh and Kontum-Pleiku (the High Plateaux)... and seriously frustrated their "pacification" plan, disintegrating their coercive machine by big chunks and seizing control in vast areas and completely liberating Quang Tri province, many districts, hundreds of villages and thousands of hamlets throughout South Viet Nam.

These resounding victories recorded by the South Viet Nam people and the liberation armed forces in the past one and half month have quickly changed the balance of forces on the battlefields in our favor and to the detriment of the US aggressors and their lackeys. These victories of strategic significance are creating a new strength and position for our people and liberation armed forces to continuously attack the enemy in all the strategic areas, and score yet greater and allround victories.

The Saigon puppet army having been inflicted heavy losses is driven into a situation of serious disintegration. Their forces have been thinned out. They had to muster their main force into the "hottest" points, thus exposing themselves in many places. The morale of officers and soldiers of the Saigon army is seriously sinking. At present everywhere in South Viet Nam there are more favourable conditions than ever before for us to launch offensives and uprisings to annihilate the enemy, smash their coercive machine and seize control.

The victory of the liberation armed forces and people in the past period has vigorously enhanced the struggle of the people in the cities and towns urging them to step up their struggle in coordination with the whole of South Viet Nam to "fight till the Yanks quit and the puppets topple" and regain a life in freedom.

These allsided victories of the South Vietnamese people and the liberation armed forces are eloquent expression of our determination to fight and to win, of our ardent patriotism and our burning hatred for the enemy.

The victory recorded by the South Vietnamese people and the liberation armed forces is also the victory of the close militant solidarity between the fraternal people and liberation armed forces of Laos and Cambodia, the victory of our friends in the five continents and the progressive American people in their support to our people's just cause.

THOUGH having sustained heavy losses the US imperialists are still obdurate. The Nixon junta has refused to give up their dark scheme of aggression in the southern part of our country. Nixon's frenzied acts of war escalation in both North and South of our country as well as his decision to suspend indefinitely the work of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam clearly show the extremely obdurate, brutal and warlike aggressive stand of the Nixon junta.

It is evident that Nixon has brazenly challenged the Vietnamese people and demanded the latter who have won one victory after another to down arms. We want to remind the Nixon group that "Viet Nam belongs to the Vietnamese." Every inch of land, every air space and every sea area of Viet Nam territory is inviolable. If the Nixon administration strikes once at the North, the South liberation forces and people will punish them five and even ten times harder. This is the will, the determination of all our liberation forces and people.

Though being driven in a losing position, Nixon is playing with fire. By their frenzied acts of war escalation the Nixon clique are piling up their crimes against the people in both North and South of our country.

But all this does not show that they are strong, instead it is only the death-bed struggle of the US imperialist aggressors and their henchmen before the serious setbacks of their "Vietnamization" of the war policy. The new acts of war adventure which the Nixon administration has embarked on cannot save them from total defeat in South Viet Nam but will only lead them to even more lamentable fiasco.

in the cities

o Following Thieu's announcement of his 9 fascist measures of ruthless oppression and exploitation, Saigon has been looking like a huge concentration camp. Civil and military police are seen everywhere. They search passers-by and erect barbed wire barricades to restrict the people's movement. The public has lashed out against those moves and urged that they be cancelled so that life in Saigon could return to normal.

o The Committee for the Consolidation of Peaceful Co-existence of the Cao Dai Religious Sect in Tay Ninh has issued a strong protest against the recent US-Thieu bombing and shelling of the Ben Cau Cao Dai Church which killed many believers and destroyed many houses and a lot of civilian property. After denouncing the US-Thieu violation of the people's freedom of belief, the statement called on Caodaist clergy and laymen to join the rest of the people in rising up and foiling "Vietnamization".

o Since early April, hundreds of families with members impressed into the Saigon army and living in the Saigon — Gia Dinh area, have staged continual marches on the HQ of the Saigon army's general staff, various military training camps and army hospitals to press for the return of their husbands, brothers and sons. They blame the US-Thieu clique for the death and misery inflicted on many families. At the Saigon General Military Hospital, families having their relatives killed in action have requested Buddhist and Catholic priests to hold masses for the dead. The authorities have been denounced for having buried alive seriously wounded soldiers.

B-52s, the weapons of despair

UNDER the title "The Strategy of Failure", the *International Herald Tribune* editorialized on April 20, 1972 that Nixon's decision to turn the clock back four years by escalating the bombing of North Viet Nam... is an exercise in folly and fatality... because it was demonstralby a failure."

"The mystery is why it is being tried again", queried the leader's writer.

We do not know exactly whether the latter's doubts are real or he simply wants to make a point of the question at issue. Anywhow, let us look into the matter.

During his political career, Richard M. Nixon has substantiated his nickname Tricky Dick. He has always flexed his muscles and resorted to all kinds of jugglery. Most remarkable has been his lust for the presidential chair, his craving for power. His great misfortune was that he took over too poor a legacy when he wormed his way into the White House : a divided U.S.A., an ailing American society a seriously dimmed international political image, a dismal break-down in lines and policies, an army in the grips of many evils, etc. But most frustrating for him in late 1968 was the Viet Nam issue.

Time waits for no man. Again America finds herself in the turmoil of the traditional scramble for votes. Nixon again has to enter the detestable race to secure another term. Of course, he has many ploys and many trumpcards. In the final analysis, his principal asset, however, remains "Vietnamization" — the epitome, the crucial test, the do or die attempt, the last resort and the decisive element of the doctrine bearing his name.

After more than 3 years of its application which has required the greatest mental exertions of Kissinger and the biggest moral and material efforts of the White House and the Pentagon. "Vietnamization" unfortunately is nodding to its fall. For more than 3 years, Nixon had taken great pains to paint a rosy picture of the "success" of this policy to bring home to the American public that the Viet Nam war was no longer an issue in this election year.

As the election campaign was swinging into gear in the States, all of a sudden the whole house of cards crumbled under the impact of the earth-shaking offensives and uprisings of the South Vietnamese armed forces and people effectively coordinated with the Lao and Cambodian patriots' actions. In less than 5 weeks, the wave of onslaughts turned topsy-turvy all of Nixon's attempts to dim out Viet Nam as an issue and developments in Indochina. The disastrous collapse of "Vietnamisation" has driven him into an impasse. His re-Americanization of the war in the form of a massive air and naval buildup to save the client army, and his senseless war moves against North Viet Nam, both have substantiated the following 2 major facts concerning the Viet Nam war. Firstly Nixon's inability to deny the dismal flop of his strategy after more than 3 years of trial. Whatever success he has so far fabricated in his speeches and statements has been obliterated. He is undoubtedly at the end of his tether. To such an extent that he has to fall back on a strategy which had already been shelved, namely, the bombing of North Viet Nam. The US deadlock finds a clear and paradoxical expression in the fact that the mainstay for the Nixon doctrine in Viet Nam now seems to be exclusively the US air force, chiefly B-52's. This was transparent in his April 24 and May 8, 1972 speeches. These pronouncements were typical of the obstinate, outmoded and unimaginative character of his Viet Nam policy. The resumption of the air and naval attacks on DRVN territory, one of the three military measures lastly announced by Nixon, is particularly cynical.

Nixon had pinned all his hopes on "Vietnamization" to secure re-election. But the strategy received a terrible blow and was driven to the verge of collapse at a moment when the election campaign was gaining momentum. Nixon's present plight is far worse than Johnson's in 1968. Yet, he wants to keep the presidential office at all costs. Bombing is his only recourse left to achieve his ends, and bombing with B-52's.

The remedy, however, is no novelty. It has been used and has already proven to be a failure. Previously, air power was so frequently deployed that it bore the mark of despair, not resolution, of weakness, not strength (as a British paper put it). Then what does Nixon aim at when he he reverts to this bankrupt policy, stepped up to a more rabid and savage degree than under Johnson with deliberate carpet bombings on heavily populated cities? For all the justifications he can produce for such a crime, his objective which is to check the advance of the Vietnamese people with military brutalities is left in no doubt. There cannot be a more cruel and more senseless design. Of all the US arsenal, B-52s are no new engines of death to the Vietnamese. They have little effect on them.

After nearly 30 years of intervention and 20 years of naked aggression in Viet Nam, the US imperialists must have learnt enough object lessons, For the Vietnamese people, "*nothing is more precious than independence and freedom*". Brutalities are no sign of strength ; neither are they a weapon to bend the will of the Vietnamese. As the American press has put it, when it comes to confront ground escalation with a renewal of air escalation, we have the feeling that it is a repetition of a thing of the past with all its sad and fruitless results. *The Vietnamese people will not be intimidated.* This great truth was established right at the moment when over half a million US troops were in South Viet Nam and when maximum US air power was deployed to "bomb North Viet Nam back to the stone age." If the Vietnamese people were to be cowed at all by furious bombings, Johnson might not have had to bow out so soon and to write his gloomy memoirs.

After more than 3 years of their extensive use, B-52's still fail to salvage "Vietnamization" in South Viet Nam. Now in face of the failure of this predatory strategy, Nixon is sending them to North Viet Nam for similar purposes, resorting again to an old and inoperative tactics. Clearly enough B-52s now are not weapons of those who are in a position of strength in Viet Nam and Indochina, but arms of despair in the hands of lethally wounded people in their throes of death. With this in mind the South Vietnamese armed forces and people are calmly biding their time.

PHUONG DAM

US Presidents' evidence on US aggression

THE "defense of freedom in South Viet Nam" claim has been the biggest US lie since the fifties. All US administrations, from Eisenhower to Nixon have been trying hard to reverse the roles: the troops of the US have been said to be the defenders of freedom whereas the Vietnamese have been charged with invasion of their own land.

The issue at stake is momentous. Everyone is aware of the conclusion of the Nuremberg Tribunal: launching a war of aggression is not only an international crime, it is the supreme international crime which differs from the other war crimes by the fact that it contains them all. Old colonialism readily styles itself a conquistador. Neocolonialism usually dons the shepherd's cape like the wolf of the fable.

But every lie will out. In the present case, the evidence has been supplied not only by the Vietnamese and world peoples, victim and eye-witnesses of the offence, but unwittingly, it is true, by US officials themselves, beginning by US Presidents, as revealed by historical documents and

American GIs victims of the US aggressive policy

chiefly by the Pentagon top secret papers which have ceased being so since the courageous disclosure of the *New York Times* in 1971.

It has been thus let out that in 1944 F.D. Roosevelt had this to say to his Secretary of State Cordell Hull: The French have got the country with its thirty million population under their rule for nearly a century and these are worse off than before. The Indochinese peoples deserve something better. The "something better" was suggested by the "kindhearted" F.D.R. to Chiang Kai-shek in the form of an international trusteeship with an American as one co-chairman, i.e. a neocolonial rule under US leadership.

In May 1950, Harry Truman generously gave 10 million dollars for shoring up the morale of the French Expeditionary Corps in Indochina, which did not stave off the eventual defeat of the latter at the Sino-Vietnamese Frontier Battle, described by "professor" Bernard Fall as the "biggest colonial defeat since Montcalm's death in Quebec". The event brought about a decisive turn in US policy not in favour of the freedom of the Vietnamese and Indochinese peoples, but of the French comeback. US hardware flowed into Saigon where the MAAG (Military Aid Advisory Group), new US command of the Indochina war, held sway.

In January 1953, a Republican Administration took over the White House and operated no change to the US Indochina policy. The following year, the cost of the French war of colonial reconquest was defrayed to the level of 78.25% by the Americans, according to French data.

General Ike Eisenhower, famous for his uprightness proved to be of distasteful duplicity. He declared on February 10, 1954 that there could not be a greater tragedy for the US than to get involved in the war in Indochina, and that nobody was more emphatically opposed to such a course of action than himself. But privately he favoured commitment of US troops to Indochina. A memo of the National Security Council which he chaired, held that to win in Indochina, in case the French had to quit, it would take 7 US divisions or equivalent armed forced units with adequate naval and aerial cover. General James Gavin confirmed the fact by saying that as he was head of the Plans and Operations Office of the Department of the Army at the time of Dien Bien Phu, General Mathew B.Ridgway recommended him and his staff to examine carefully the situation with a view to an eventual decision to deploy US forces in the Hanoi delta. I remember, he added, that at that time, the possibility of landing 8 divisions and 35 engineering battalions and other auxiliary units was contemplated.

The same Eisenhower overtly rejected the Agreements by announcing on the very evening of July 21, 1954 that "the United States has not itself been party to, or bound by, the decisions taken by the (Geneva) Conference", though a few hours earlier, at the final session of the Conference, General Bedell Smith, head of the US delegation, had taken note of the arrangements reached and declared that his country would refrain from the threat or the use of force to disturb the execution of the Geneva Agreements.

A month later, on August 20, 1954 Ike okayed a secret plan outlining military, economic and polical measures to ensure US penetration into Indochina. According to the authors of the Pentagon Papers the President's approval implied that the US policy regarding Viet Nam for the period posterior to the Geneva Conference was ipso facto elaborated.

January 1961. On entering the White House the Democrat John Kennedy decided a phased escalation of US aggression against South Viet Nam in order not to give too much alarm to public opinion. He also gave the secret order to undertake "clandestine subversive activities" on the DRVN territory while his Secretary of State prepared a White Book on the "responsibility of North Viet Nam for the aggression in South Viet Nam."

Combat units of the US poured into South Viet Nam. To a correspondent's question whether he thought the US administration was "less than sincere" as regards US armed penetration into Viet Nam, Kennedy gave this unusual answer: US troops in Indochina are no combat units in the usual acceptation of the word. Mc Namara, his Defence Secretary, eventually elaborated on his statement by specipying that the boys would be involved in action only accidentally. The Pentagon Papers' authors concluded more objectively that the gambling with limited risks conducted by Eisenhower degenerated under Kennedy into unlimited commitments.

Lyndon B. Johnson, successor to Kennedy assassinated, was the man of the Tonking Gulf frame-up, masterminded by William Bundy, which provided a pretext to begin the massive bombing of the the DRVN on August 5, 1964. He eventually sent half a million GI's to massacre South Vietnamese allegedly to protect them from an aggression by their Northern fellow countrymen! He also made a kind offer to the latter to negotiate peace unconditionally. But as the Papers have revealed, the White House meant by unconditional negotiation the DRVN unconditional capitulation.

From the behaviour of the four above-mentioned US Presidents, one can infer that there has never been a question of defending the freedom of South Viet Nam which as a matter of fact Washington has never recognized *de jure*, since its 1950 recognition was granted to a State of Viet Nam embracing North and South. It has always been a matter of US interest, as confirmed by US leaders themselves. If Indochina was lost, said President Eisenhower "the tin and tungsten that we so greatly value from that area would cease coming", John F. Dulles made no secret of it neither: The interests of the US in Far East from the strategic point of view are closely linked to what is usually called the chain of the littoral islands.

Richard Nixon claims that he has unwillingly inherited a Johnson war of which he has been painstakingly seeking the termination. But US intervention and aggression can be traced back to much earlier times than Johnson's. Planned by Roosevelt, it was started under Truman and stepped up under Eisenhower whose Vice-President was Nixon himself for two successive terms.

The legacy of the war has weighed so lightly upon Nixon's conscience that he has not taken the trouble to end it as he pledged to do to the American voters. His "Vietnamization" is in reality neither de-escalation nor de-Americanization nor de-aggression but just the opposite.

In point of fact, the aggression has spread to Cambodia and Laos. The bombing of the DRVN, including the port of Haiphong and the capital Hanoi has just been intensified again. Americanization of the war has been pushed up at sea and in the air and there has been a good deal of talk about landing US Marines to ward off the total collapse of the client army.

A cursory glance at Article 6, paragraph "b" of the Statute of the Nuremberg Tribunal which defines all the counts of the crime against peace, is enough for one to find that all the four US Presidents incriminated above including the incumbent Chief Executive are guilty on every one of them on the strength of the very evidence of the accused. Their testimony at the same time tears to shreds the crude charge of a North Viet Nam's aggression against South Viet Nam.

XUAN KHANH

THE SAIGON ARMY ON ITS LAST LEGS

THE current wave of shattering offensives and uprisings of the South Vietnamese armed forces and people have been devastating for the Saigon army, the strategic force of "Vietnamization", an instrument of the White House to prolong and widen the war, secure a military decision and achieve its termination in the way conceived by Nixon.

It was licking its wounds following its many disasters in 1971 when the Spring onsets came. In 45 days and nights, despite support of US air and sea power and some US ground troops, it got trounced in all battlefields from Tri-Thien to Ca Mau. The PLAF destroyed 2 divisions and 15 brigades, regiments and armoured regiments and decimated many other units. Particularly in Loc Ninh, they wrote off a multi-battalion unit and forced another to surrender. In Quang Tri, in less than 5 days, one of the US-Saigon strongest defence conplexes crumbled. In a lightning offensive in Kontum, the Liberation fighters erased the Dakto-Tan Canh strongholds, wiped out an enemy force of division size and took thousands of prisoners including colonels and lieutenant-colonels. All of Saigon's crack units, of battalion size upward, — infantry, artillery, armour, border ranger, etc... — came under fire not from one but from many directions and on many battlefields. The number of major units which were completely and swiftly knocked out was larger than in any previous periods. Many main force units which have been struck off the musteroll are still far from being replenished.

The blows dealt not only at the enemy forces, but also at their fighting spirit. Never before has Saigon troop morale sunk so low as at present. Desertions have been soaring and the rate of defections and anti-war actions is the highest ever. In a little more than a month hundreds of thousands of officers and men of the Saigon main force and para-military units went awol, ran away, surrendered or mutinied. Particularly serious is that combat-refusals, runaways in action, and collective surrenders or rebellions involving big units have been on the upgrade in many regular divisions, including "crack" divisions of the strategic reserve and the 1st Division, a unit whose good combat performance is "comparable to any American division", according to US commanders' ratings. Dealing with the crisis and desperation of the Saigon army, *AP* commented on May 3: "Every time a unit gives up or runs away, it increases chances for the same thing to happen again some place. It is another kind of domina theory."

Pandemonium has spread among the Saigon army, from Quang Tri — Thua Thien to the Mekong Delta... In Quang Tri-Thua Thien, a battalion of the First Division 54th Regiment surrendered while the 56th Regiment staged a collective anti-war action and crossed over to the revolutionary side. In the Central Highlands, many companies and battalions of the Saigon 22nd Division gave themselves up during the Liberation assault on the Dakto-Tan Canh base, while a Saigon ranger battalion at Ben Het revolted, shot dead a South Vietnamese officer, held a battalion commander as hostage and, with rifles, pinned down in a bunker the US advisers who were formerly their commanding officers (according to Western sources). In Eastern Nam Bo, many enemy units including Task Force 9 from the Colonel commander down to the simple soldiers defected to the PLAF. In many areas, the whole of the "People's self-defence" force joined the people's side, many security force units ignored orders to go to the rescue of battered troops, or engaged in wholesale anti-war protest, punished aggressive officers and handed over their weapons to revolutionary authorities. According to the *London Times*, the South Vietnamese ground troops have little or no will to fight. Division and battalion commanders are to blame. They lack confidence in victory. The paper wrote on May 2, most accounts now agree that resolute and well-led troops in the Saigon forces are not enough to balance those who quickly surrender or flee.

The US Embassy in Saigon was reported to have sent an urgent message to Washington, informing it that Saigon troops' morale has deteriorated seriously *(Baltimore Sun*, May 5).

Faced with the demoralization and the prospect of a large-scale disintegration of their client army, Nixon and his confederates have been taking drastic measures to boost its morale and extricate its troops from their desperate situation. More aircraft and tanks have been given to it. An unprecedented level of US air and sea power has been fielded in fierce strikes in both zones of Viet Nam. Meanwhile Nguyen Van Thieu, in a theatrical move, fired some commanding officers. He ordered a crackdown on antiwar soldiers, drafted more troops, patched up the defected units, and launched some "probes" ballyhooed as counter-offensives to produce some psychological effect on his men. Nevertheless, all these measures have failed to breathe courage into the moribund army. An American adviser in Saigon, at the sight of M.48 tanks being hastily brought in for this army, wryly remarked that the Saigon soldiery have no use for these damned tanks. What they actually need is a bit of pluck!

Brutalities have only exasperated their resistance to the war. The US-Saigon rule has resorted to many tricks to get its army out of its present predicament, but the very measures have shaken their own confidence. At a moment when the Saigon troops are being hard pressed, in his fiery speech on May 8, Nixon addressed his Saigon valets in these terms: "It is your spirit that will determine the outcome of the battle."

Was it an exhortation, or a lament full of despair and anxiety? Was it an admission of Washington's war makers that the total collapse of Saigon troops' morale was imminent?

THANH HONG

In Binh Long, eastern Nam Bo, routed Saigon mercenaries clinging to the choppers' skids

PUPPET ARMY COLUMN 52'S "TRAGIC" FATE

THE portion on National Highway 13 only 1.2 mile long from the provincial Highway 17 cross-road to Can Le Bridge had its both sides churned up and dotted with bomb craters and littered with trees withered by chemical defoliants or incenerated by bombs and shells.

It was the ambush site of X Unit of the PLAF where Saigon Army Column 52 (Division 18) was written off as had been Army Column 9 and Armoured Regiment 10 in Loc Ninh area. It also witnessed dramatic battles fought by the patriotic forces in Eastern Nam Bo which had wiped out several US crack units such as "Red Berets", "Air Mobile Cavalry", Armoured Regiment 11...

Stationed at Hong Tam base on the cross-road of Provincial Highway 13, Saigon Army Column 52 had to cover the western side of Highway 13 and was a mobile force to rescue endangered troops in Loc Ninh area and Binh Long provincial capital.

Preparations for action completed, Unit X of the PLAF in Binh Long was spoiling for the fight.

At daybreak on April 7, the sky was serene. Rows of defoliated or charred trees on both sides of Highway 13 stood quietly as to wait for a rising big storm. From the observation post, the liberation fighters clearly perceived bustling enemy vehicles prepared for [illegible]. Immediately, from a shelter [illegible] the "go" signal, Unit P of the PLAF artillery poured a murderous fire on the CP of Army Column 52, silencing with their first rounds all the enemy big guns at their emplacements in Hong Tam and Can Le Bridge bases.

Caught napping, the whole adverse convoy and infantrymen fled in disorder to the direction of Highway 17 cross-road. Section 8 of the patriotic forces, from a nearby encirclement position, made a deep thrust into the formation of 500 adverse men belonging to Battalions 1 and 2, and 32 GMC trucks. The PLAF shock fighters quickly moved to the same cross-road, and together with Section 6, overpowered the enemy and put out of action all the 32 vehicles in the lead and 3 M-113 armoured vehicles and M-41 tanks reaching there in their flight from Loc Ninh.

In such a situation, the rear detachment of Army Column 52, including its command, instead of returning to the cross-road valley across the thick jungle, dug in together with the remainders of the front detachment at a place a little over half a mile north of Can Le Bridge.

All the PLAF attacking prongs from different directions dashed at once from their positions toward the adversary, tightening a noose around them and struck hard at their disrupted formation. The enemy column was caught in a huge net of the PLAF on National Route 17. Fighters of Sections 7 and 8 with bayonets, petards and hand-grenades engaged the enemy in close fighting, disputing every inch of ground and wiped out group after group of adverse men. B-40 and B-41 gunners turned the enemy abandoned vehicles into fortifications to put out of combat the adverse motorized and ground forces which offered a stubborn resistance. The PLAF mortarmen were in hot pursuit of the fleeing enemy troops while anti-aircraft gunners deployed close to the adverse infantrymen and effectively helped our fighters knock them out. US-Saigon aircraft mounted a series of support raids which were all repulsed by the PLAF anti-aircraft firepower. The helicopter coming to the rescue of the column commanders was hit by ground fire as it tried to swoop down and had to limp back to base in a hurry. It was then the most frightful moments for Army Column 52. Without command, the panic-stricken mercenaries took to their heels.

Then, on the liberation fighters' call, group after group of Saigon troops surrendered to the PLAF.

At 2 p.m. on April 7, on the battlefield was heard only the patriotic forces' sporadic gunfire in hot pursuit of enemy remnants taking refuge in the bushes and the roaring of some American jets which dropped bombs to wipe out the remaining Saigon soldiers or wrecked vehicles and destroy Can Le Bridge.

That portion of Highway 13 was plunged into a sea of flames, and the bodies, wrecked vehicles, guns and other war materials strewn all over the ground.

In a devastating and brief ambush on a bare terrain, the PLAF in Binh Long wiped out Saigon Army Column 52 (Division 18) and completely smashed the western shield of strategic Highway 13.

The liberation fighters took over 200 prisoners and destroyed more than 200 military vehicles, 14 heavy guns including five 155 mm and one 175 mm artillery pieces, shot down 5 aircraft, captured hundreds of firearms of various types, a great quantity of transceivers and other military equipment.

Dau Mau *base under the PLAF artillery's fire*

HELL BREAKS LOOSE ON ENEMY ARMOUR BASE

HAM XE was an important base just outside Da Nang city, in the Ist Corps Area and where the headquarters of the Saigon 17th Armour Squadron was set up.

When the PLAF started their offensive in the Quang Tri battlefield, a major part of the 17th Squadron was sent as reinforcement and replaced by the 34th Armour Squadron from Tam Ky.

Aware of how the 17th Armour Squadron then strong with close 80 tanks and armoured troop carriers and more than 600 men, had been heavily beaten during the Highway 9 - Southern Lao campaign early in 1971, the 34th Squadron was scared out of wits. It started consolidating the perimeter and setting up new outposts. More barbed wire was added, and patrols kept scouring the area day and night.

On April 12, at half past 10 m.p., Unit X of the PLAF was ready for an attack just outside the base. Despite the blinding lignt of flares and the recurrent mortar barrages around the garrison, the liberation fighters managed to get close to the perimeter. Taking advantage of the intermittent darkness and mortar explosions, the spearhead men closed in, while other prongs of the attacking force were also taking up position.

By one o' clock in the morning the sappers had ripped through eight barbed wire entanglement layers.

Almost instantly, a series of explosions were heard, and columns of flames were seen springing up into the night sky from the heart of the city. That signal of attack by other units in the city, greatly heartened the combatants still champing the bit outside the enemy base.

Alert was sounded in the base, and a group of tanks began rumbling out of their park to make a tour.

At the timely signal of the commander, the shock force flooded the last inches toward the enemy CP and communication centre. Two sappers, using B40 tank-busters, blasted the two tanks which were trying to block the bridge-head. In a nearby bunker, enemy troops tried to put up some resistance, but were pinned down by the murderous bursts from the AK automatic rifle of one of the shock troopers.

The main prong of the PLAF unit rushed on and after a few minutes seized complete control of the camp CP and signal station.

Another fighter of the shock force, toting a B40, discovered a house near the CP area, which seemed to shelter the enemy drivers. With one shell he pulled down the house upon them.

A group of tanks suddenly lumbered up from the east, trying to counter-attack. An anti-tank group popped up from its hide-out. A little comet burst forth to meet the vehicle in the lead. An earth-shaking explosion was heard, a big fire billowed and the tank was burnt down.

The other vehicles tried to break away, but it was too late. The PLAF fighters opened up again, and they were all gutted.

Meanwhile, other men of the shock group shot afire two other tanks, and blew up six blockhouses.

The camp by this time become a real hell, with PLAF fighters blasting away every vehicle or fortification they met on their way. The air was full of smoke and fire, and the earth rocked under successive explosions.

At the southern end, the PLAF commander led another group, to wipe out resistance pockets outside the perimeter. The liberation fighters quickly disposed of enemy die-hards while calling other adverse troops to surrender.

After 25 minutes the attackers took complete control of the base. During their swift assault, they wiped out or captured over 100 enemy, and gutted 25 tanks and armoured cars, which constituted the bulk of the 34th Armour Squadron and part of the 17th Squadron.

The victory of this excellent anti-tank unit of the PLAF, contributed to decimate heavily the 7th Armour Regiment of the US-puppets in the first ten days of this month of historic offensive and uprising in Quang Da province of South Viet Nam.

WHEN PLAF TANKS TURN UP

Tanks ambushed by tanks

HEIGHT 35 lays south of Route 9, over 2km to the west of Dong Ha. After surveying the site, leaders of the tank unit decided to detail Company 7 for the coming fight and to arm it with tanks which would stand ready on the summit.

The biggest drawback in any ambush of the kind is to keep it secret, namely, how to damp down the noise made by the vehicles put into action, to rub out the traces of their caterpillars and to have good camouflage.

In one night Company 7 occupied the place and laid in wait for the enemy.

At 7 sharp the next morning the look-out announced that 5 tanks M-48 were advancing from Dong Ha. The company leader put his men on the alert.

Guns were directed at the approaching adversary.

Five tanks, in effect, were forging ahead toward Height 35, followed by ground troops. The adversary obviously wanted to position here and black liberation troops' movement in the area.

Sitting in the tank No 901 political instructor Tran Quoc Hien watched over the coming vehicles. He decided to let them draw as near as possible.

"Perforating bullets, — 800 — fire!" he ordered.

The first volley set the enemy tanks on fire. The PLAF drivers were instructed to bring their tanks out of their fortifications, to wipe out the enemy and pursue the remnants to the end.

On April 4 alone, 7 adverse tanks were destroyed by Company 7.

Tanks captured by tanks

TWO adverse infantry companies with 14 tanks were intercepted on Height 20 by a 3-tank formation of the liberation forces. From the look-out tower, our gunmen clearly distinguished the enemy's positions from their own. Confident of their capabilities, they offered to support ground troops. The proposal was accepted and in a matter of seconds artillery and heavy mortar shells were showered on the adverse battle array. Unable to sustain the strong fire of the PLAF, the mercenaries took to flight with their tanks one of which was hit by their opponent engaged in a hot pursuit. Familar with the terrain, they managed to withdraw to Height 37, hoping to profit from a vintage point with a view to a counter-attack. They did not expect to meet with a most devastating fire power of liberation troops solidly stationed on the height, which forced them to retreat downhill in confusion, tanks M-41, M-113 and M-48 in the van.

But once again the PLAF took the enemy by surprise: their tanks suddenly turned up in front of him. The convoy stopped short. Unable to escape, the crew of all tanks got out and surrendered. Soon afterwards the two prongs of the PLAF from the east and west and the force stationed on Height 37 closed in to the glee of everyone.

Having no time to lose, every unit chose several of its mates to man the newly captured tanks, thus reinforcing the tank force that was to chase the enemy.

STUDENTS TURNED GUNNERS

MANY university students are beside themselves with joy when becoming anti-aircraft gunners. This joy is even much greater when they are admitted to the units defending the capital. "Ready to die for the Fatherland to live", these famous words of Uncle Ho in his letter to the defenders of Hanoi capital formerly can still inspire the generations born after the August Revolution. Fighters of Company 3 of long-range A-A artillery have engraved them deep on their hearts. They defend the translucent sky of Thang Long (Soaring Dragon) (1) to preserve the independence and freedom brought them by the previous generations.

Spotter Nguyen Minh Cat, a student of the Radio Section of the Hanoi Polytechnics, was qualified as a skilled fighter in 4 subjects and 13 tests. But he is not the only case. Many other mates like Dao Hung Cuong, Vu Van Thu, Nguyen Nhu Thien, are equally proficient. If the spotters team is determined to apply what they have learnt with high efficiency, the gunners themselves are also resolved to co-ordinate action and deal with all eventualities with greatest promptness and accuracy. Labour Youth Union member Nguyen Van Nhan is as quick in loading guns as any other skilled fellow crewman. "All for combat and victory", is the dictate of the conscience of every youth union member and young man. News of victory from all over the whole country have fired them forward. The urge to revenge a great many fallen people rouses them into action. Each time Youth Union Secretary Dang Xuan Thu, with Political Commissar Vu Van Chinh or Company leader Nguyen Huu Chat check the combat preparations, all of them agree the view that the weapons are well kept, and the men fully prepared.

All the fighters of A-A Artillery Company 3 are aware that the capital's history is reserving for them glowing pages. Together with gunners of other batteries, they will write them down in bold letters.

Following the April 16 battle, they understand better the adversary. They will nurture in their hearts the implacable hatred for them, they are prepared to die for the Fatherland to live and they will score direct hits at the enemy.

On May 10 and 11, Company 3 gunners again swung into action. Their long-range shells were concentrated on the targets. Squad Commander Bui Hien Dan sighted the enemy planes and stuck to them. In his CP, Company leader Nguyen Huu Chat was quite satisfied with the observers' manœuvring the enemy into the gun's reach. All the battery commanders were ready. From afar, our fighters were closing in on, and our missiles were in hot pursuit of adverse craft.

The team of spotters and observers led them into the range of Company 3 gunners. Unit leader Chat gave the signal. Rounds of shells were immediately fired into the air and clustered at the very moment when the US plane was swooping down. Union member Nguyen Van Tam perfectly executed the 3rd and 4th jobs.

The whole company was active, including the cooks also known as skilled gunners, among them, Thao, Chuc, Dieng, standing besides their mates of Battery 5.

People in the capital city that day saw with their own eyes many US planes crash in flames from different angles. The observers reported to Company leader Chat that they had seen the marauding planes brought down close to direction 14.

Shells of long and short range continued to weave a net of fire around the adversary.

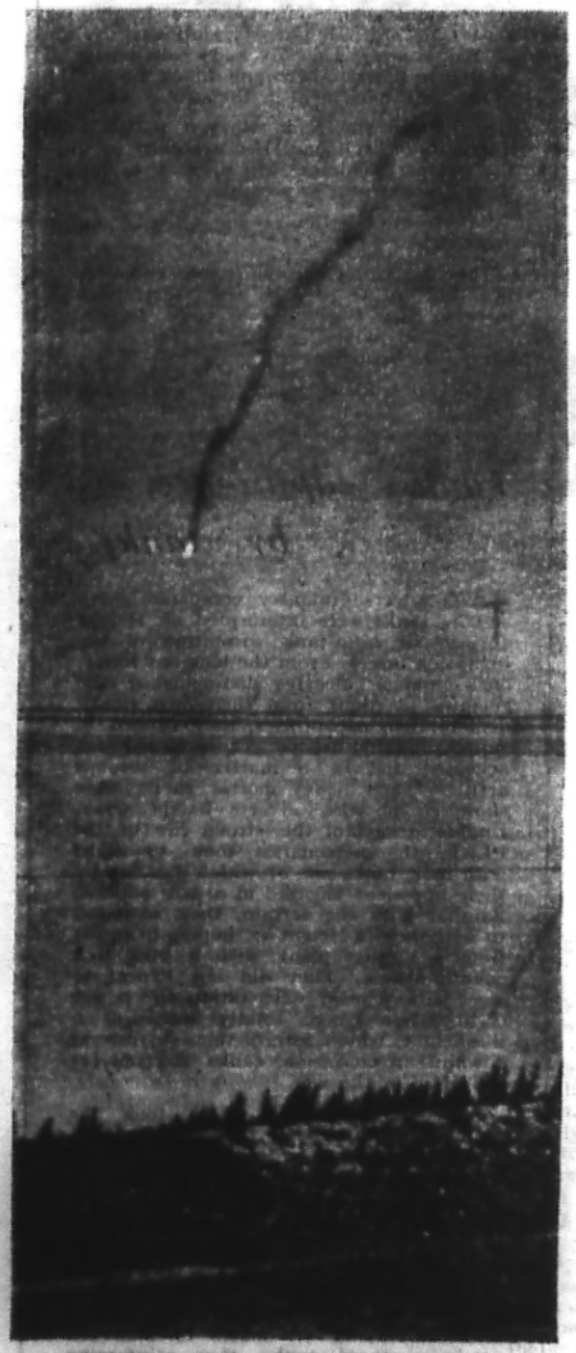
At noon, through loudspeakers, the *Voice of Viet Nam Radio* announced that 9 US aircraft were downed in their criminal raid on Hanoi, and many American air pirates captured.

The enemy will continue piling up crimes against the people in the capital, and they will have to pay dearer for them. The list of captured American airmen will further lenghten.

The defenders of Hanoi airspace as well as all those defending beloved North Viet Nam will help the Pentagon and Nixon realize more clearly this glaring truth: "the aggressors will be defeated and in a humiliating manner".

PHUONG NAM

(1) *ancient name of Hanoi.*



US air-marauder hit and set ablaze by Haiphong A.A. gunners
(Photo by a Hanoi correspondent of the Cuban paper Granma)

BRING DOWN THE AIR PIRATES

THE sky was liquid on the morning of May 10, 1972. The alert sounded. A formation of American jets flew high over Y. to ward off our shells and missiles. Only their drone was heard. On the orders given by Nixon on May 8, they were comming to commit crimes against our people. Resolved to punish them, our squadrons X. and Y. took off, led by pilots Nam and Yen, weaving an iron network around the predatory planes.

Learning the tactics of South Viet Nam liberation fighters to close in upon the enemy, our command gave orders to pilots 1 and 2 not to let them any avenue of escape. Speeding up their engines, Nam and Yen boldly darted into the enemy formation, leaving behind two trails of white smoke. Nam did his best to keep an F-4 under his control: he saw clearly that the American pilot was awkwardly attempting to find a way of salvation. But too late for him! Nam fired a shot, hitting the cockpit and the enemy plane was split asunder and blown to smithereens. Frightened, the other air pirates flew helter skelter.

Capitalizing on their confusion, Yen drew near Nam: he intercepted another plane and released his shot which turned it into a ball of flames, scoring another hit in our favour.

the DRVN in brief

• North Viet Nam railway service as a whole, from coordinating section to engine — and carriage — repairing units, line — and bridge — maintenance groups, drivers' teams, stations, and freight handling groups on various networks, has transformed their joy over the nation's military victories into deeds: increase of traffic, of freight, of speed in repairs, so as to rapidly make available engines, carriages, bridges, etc. greater efficiency in freight handling so as to avoid bottlenecks in stations, raillines, etc.

In defiance of enemy air raids, supplies have been kept flowing in adequate quantities to the front.

Technicians and workers of the Yen Phu Power Station (Hanoi) have been striving to raise production during the 2nd quarter by 1.5 million kilowatt hours compared with the 1st quarter. Technicians and workers of Haiphong factories, enterprises and handicraft cooperatives have taken the resolution to cling to their production sites in any circumstances, like fighters to their combat positions.

Hardly had the gun-shots directed at US air marauders died down when self-defence members and workers of Shipyard B — a hero unit — quickly cleared the ground and resumed their work of launching boats and launches.

Workers in various workshops had kept all their tools and materials ready, and in three days, Shipyard B was able to launch one boat and two launches 24 hours ahead of schedule.

• Workers of the Co Dinh chromite mine (Thanh Hoa) have succeeded in mecnanizing their whole chain of production. The output of good mineral ores rose from 10 perçent to 15 perçent and the cost price of each ton of ores went down by 10 percent.

• This slogan has been put forth in Ha Tinh province: "Roads are battlefields, each worker on them must become an outstanding fighter." In danger spots — bridges, landing-stages — auxiliary byways were built, the system of road signs perfected for greater safety. Vanguard youth teams No 53 and 55 have been putting in extra time to maintain traffic open.

• Enterprise No 204 under the Roadway Management Service has stepped up the production of high quality wooden boards to be used on bridge surface. In the 1st quarter, an emulation drive movement has resulted in the overfulfilment of its plan by 7 percent.

The World and Nixon's May 8 address

A RECKLESS GAME

A wave of indignation was mounting across the world when, playing a risky game after bitter setbacks in South Viet Nam, Nixon announced the mining of DRVN ports and other acts of war against the Vietnamese people.

The governments of the USSR, the people's Republic of China, Cuba, the Korean People's Democratic Republic, the German Democratic Republic, Poland, Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Yougoslovia, Tanzania, Finland, Somalia, the Kingdom of Cambodia; the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front, the Foreign Ministries of Algeria, the Congo (B), Syria, Irak, Chile; the National Assembly of the United Arab Republic, the Lower House of Venezuela; politic parties in many countries, national and international democratic organizations made public declarations or passed resolutions strongly scoring Nixon's reckless measures, dismissing his assertions aimed at camouflaging fresh military adventures, and pledging support to the Vietnamese people's resistance against American aggression. The statement of the USSR government pointed out: "Those manoeuvres have made clear to the whole world the predatory essence of the war provoked and carried on for many years by the United States against the Vietnamese people... a war whose character clashes with the interests of many countries and nations." The United States acts are "intolerable", the decoration added, and "the Soviet Union will draw appropriate conclusions. The United States government should shoulder full responsibility for the eventual consequences of its illegal acts... The Soviet people will go on reserving necessary support to the Vietnamese people."

The declaration of the Chinese government said: The United States acts of war escalation "are a provocation not only to the Vietnamese people, but to the world's peoples as well... So long as the aggressive war of US imperialism does not come to an end, in whatever form it may be prosecuted, whether by the Americans themselves or by proxy, by US ground troops or US Air Force and Navy, we will provide resolute support and aid for the Vietnamese people to resist to the end, until they achieve total victory".

The statement of the Tanzanian government stressed: "Those measures do not blunt the determination of the heroic Vietnamese people, but will cause the United States government to sustain still more setbacks."

Premiers and Foreign Ministers of many countries flouted Nixon's reckless behaviour. Cuba's Premier emphasized that this was "a brazen provocation to the whole socialist camp, to the whole world revolutionary movement and a direct threat to universal peace. The Cuban people resolutely unite with the socialist camp, resolutely back Viet Nam". The Prime Minister of Hungary said: "This is an act contrary to the conscience of progressive mankind." The Chairman of Algeria's Council of Minister stated: "More than ever the situation compels all world progressive forces to energetically condemn this war policy and shore up the heroic people of Viet Nam with might and main".

The head of the Indian government pointed out: "Not only the Vietnamese people but all peace-loving people across the world cannot accept these measures of the United States. The people of India once affirm their solidarity with their brothers and sisters in Viet Nam". The Prime Minister of the Democratic and People's Republic of Yemen declared: "That is also an obvious manifestation of the United States defeat in face of the successive victories that have been and are being won by the people in both North and South Viet Nam. The Chairman of Sweden's Council of Ministers stressed that Nixon's was a dangerous move that "has widened the war instead of bringing about peace". France's Foreign Minister made it clear that the position of his government had always been the desire for a peaceful solution to the Vietnamese problem. The French government, he said, has a consistent desire to see a policy of negotiations rather than a "Vietnamization of the war" policy.

Simultaneously, people in all continents have given a vivid expression to their feelings. Gatherings and streets demonstrations erupted, involving at times a dozen thousand attendants, in the USSR, Hungary, GDR, France, Tanzania, Sweden, West Germany, West Berlin, the Philippines, Australia, Pakistan, Costa Rica, Colombia... Progressive press sharply took Nixon to task. In this wave of universal wrath, Nixon is no longer a chief of state, not even a man of the common run. In the eyes of the 12,000 demonstrators in Stockholm he was but a "rabid dog", while the Indian paper *Patriot*, May 10, pictured him as a "madman", a "desperate" fellow. The Vietnamese people, on the other hand, are regarded as the embodiment of extraordinary courage and lofty sacrifice for the sake of world revolution. Never has Viet Nam earned so tremendous support as at present.

In the USA more especially, the students' reaction was quicker than after the invasion of Cambodia in 1970 (*AFP*, May 10). The very evening Nixon delivered his May 8 speech students demonstrated with utter indignation in at least seven campuses. The same French agency reported on May: "48 hours President Nixon's address the protest movement has developed to an unprecedented scale since the American operation into Cambodia in May 1970." The day before, meetings and parades and other forms of anti-Nixon drives flared up all over the United States.

At the same time, *UPI* said, the anti-Nixon drive has reached a record high since May 1970. Many senators and representatives demanded the "overthrow" of Nixon, presented a resolution for his "dismissal" or sued him for violation of the United States' constitution", for culpability toward the nation. They also took part in demonstrations on the threshold of the Capitol. Nine former members of Henry Kissinger's staff disapproved of Nixon's measures. Commenting on the explosive protest actions *UPI*, May 10, said that Nixon's hope for national unity behind the mining of North Vietnamese ports had collapsed.

Indeed, never has the incumbent US President been so high and dry as now. Never has he suffered so stringing an unsuccess: unsuccess in Viet Nam, unsuccess in the world, unsuccess right in the US.

Quick to come, momentous in strength and wide in scale, the storm against Nixon has unmistakably pointed to the weakening of American imperialism in the world. In his inevitable losing posture, the US hawk No I has exhibited the very war seeking nature and impudence of the chieftain of world imperialism. He has shown what his ballyhooed "peace generation" and "negotiation era" really are. In spite of his boastful pronouncements on American power and of his arrogant challenge to the Vietnamese people and progressive humanity the time when US imperialism ruled the roost has gone for ever. Nobody is unaware that all that is but the last kicks of a blood-thirsty beast, which, as western press has largely emphasized, will bring about nothing to Nixon but fresh setbacks.

Anti-Nixon demonstration in Salzbourg (Austria) on May 20

Cambodia: More vast areas South and Southeast of Phnom Penh liberated

IN April 1972, the Cambodian People's Liberation Armed Forces conducted a series of onslaughts on the Phnom Penh and Saigon troops, forced them to abandon many areas of strategic importance south and southeast of Phnom Penh, and seriously threatened the enemy stationed in Svay Rieng and Prey Veng provincial capitals.

From April 11 to 30, the Cambodian liberation forces attacked and besieged a big enemy force in Kompong Trach township (Kampot province) south of Phnom Penh, comprising two armour battalions, one Saigon ranger battalion and one Lon Nol battalion.

On April 30 the enemy in Kompong Trach desperately tried to break through the liberation fighters' stranglehold. But they were intercepted in their flight. Hundreds of them were captured; 20 military vehicles including 11 tanks and armoured cars and two 105mm guns were destroyed or seized. The liberation forces liberated the whole Kompong Trach township, a position of strategic importance south of Phnom Penh, close to the Viet Nam border.

From the beginning of the siege of Kompong Trach to its fall (from March 22 to April 30) the Cambodian liberation forces knocked out or took prisoner over 2,000 enemy troops, including 1,800 Saigon men, put out of action or heavily decimated two armour battalions, 6 Saigon ranger battalions and one Phnom Penh infantry battalion, seized or destroyed 90 military vehicles including 73 armoured cars, brought down 9 aircraft and wrecked 8 artillery pieces and hundreds of firearms of various kinds.

Along with the siege and harassment of Kompong Trach township, the liberation forces mounted from April 19 to 26 onset after onset on the defence perimeters of Svay Rieng and Prey Veng provinces. They overran a string of enemy positions along Highway 1, from Neak Luong to Prey Veng, killed or captured nearly 2,000 enemy including a brigade commander and many other officers, and made a big haul of guns of various calibres, including six 105mms. The Cambodian people and liberation forces gained control of a stretch of 18 miles on Highway 15, from Neak Luong to Prey Veng. At present, both Svay Rieng and Prey Veng provincial capitals are under heavy pressure from the patriots.

In the same period, the people and liberation forces of Siem Reap, Battambang, Puk Sat, Kompong Thom, Kompong Cham and Kompong Speu provinces repeatedly struck at enemy troops, wiping out or badly mauling many battalions and companies and overrunning a series of posts and pillboxes.

Besides, the Cambodian liberation fighters relentlessly ambushed enemy flotillas on the Tonle Sap river, sent to the bottom or set ablaze 8 war vessels and knocked out over 200 men onboard.

In Phnom Penh and its surroundings, the liberation fighters launched many devastating offensives and shellings on enemy positions. In the shelling on Pochentong airport on April 16 alone, the liberation fighters destroyed or damaged 10 aircraft.

Last month guerrilla warfare was stepped up everywhere. The guerillas attacked, harassed and forced the enemy to evacuate a series of posts. In Prey Veng and Svay Rieng provinces, from April 19 to 26, guerillas and regional forces levelled or forced the enemy to abandon 13 positions along Highway 1, including Kompong Ro and Tarrot towns.

In the United States

Anti-war effervescence goes on

THE nation-wide Week of Action against Nixon's extremely dangerous escalation ended May 13 with ebullient demonstrations, thousands of people strong, in New York, Minneapolis and other cities. Since then no day has passed without an anti-war activity in one form or another taking place somewhere in the United States. In Washington the Federal capital, in New York, San Francisco, Chicago, in a number of cities and townships, at the Universities of Massachusetts, California, New Jersey, New Mexico, New England, Connecticut, Illinois, Florida, South Carolina, New Hampshire, etc., American progressives staged rallies and demonstrations in front of the Federal and State Capitols and beleaguered airbases and defence research centres working for the war of aggression in Viet Nam.

The war-protest has been going on perseveringly, unabated, in the teeth of the reactionary rulers' repression. It has grown more responsive to each turn of events. In Washington an anti-war group has camped in front of the White House for one year now. On May 15, the police took away 4 demonstrators. On May, 16, US progressives staged a sit-down in front of the Congress building against the Senate resolution (on cease-fire) which fell in with Nixon attempt to force the Vietnamese people to give up their legitimate fight for national liberation. 150 people were arrested including the famous pediatrist Benjamin Spock, Pastor William S. Coffin and other churchmen. At Chicopee, May 14 was the 22nd day of a continuous sit-down demonstration before the Westover air base. On that day, the police arrested 150 people, but could not break the determination of antiwar fighters.

Up to May 21, at this air base alone, the reactionary authorities arrested 1,000 people. At Princeton on May 15, the Defence Research Institute was encircled for the 6th day and violent clashes occurred between the dissenters and the police. 200 people were taken into custody.

The US progressives' drive has been heading toward more and more dramatic steps. After symbolic bombings and minings, on May 19, an actual bombing attack shook the Pentagon and caused damage to the war lords. An increasing number of intellectuals, scientists and civil servants have associated themselves with the movement against the White House's Viet Nam and Indochina policy and overall foreign policy. Kenneth Galbraith, the well-known economist and one time ambassador to India, joined Dr George Wald at the head of 400 staff members of different departments of Boston's universities and colleges in a march on the Capitol of Massachusetts on May 15.

On May 21, a new wave of protest swept over Washington, New York, San Bernadino (California), the Army base of Ft. Devans, the air bases of Westover (Massachusetts), Ft Eustis, Ft Jackson (South Carolina) where even GIs were involved. In Washington alone, 15,000 people protested against Nixon in front of the Congress building and violently clashed with the police, resulting in the wounding of several members of the repressive forces including the Washington police chief. The demonstrators angrily smashed windows and doors of an information hall near the Capitol. They burnt Nixon in effigy and hurled stones, breaking several window panes of the US Justice Department. Displaying RSVN flags, they paraded through the streets.

The anti-war drive has spread beyond the borders of the United States. On May 14, the Association of American nationals in Cuba sent Nixon a protest against his decision to mine and blockade North Vietnamese ports, and demanded immediate withdrawal of all US troops from Indochina, cessation of all support for the fascist ruling junta in Saigon (i.e. the Thieu administration) and acceptance of the sound 7-point solution advanced by the RSVN PRG. «Your (Nixon's) generation of peace is a generation of genocide," the cable read. "The peoples of Viet Nam, the United States and the world over shall stay your hands."

On May 15, in a cable sent to the RSVN PRG delegation to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, the students of New Mexico University said that so long as the US administration expanded imperialism in Indochina, they would keep up their resolve to fight inside America to stop the war machine of the administration. Such a position is certainly similar to that of all US progressive people.

Antiwar-demonstration in front of the Pentagon

Two anecdotes ✳ Two anecdotes

A valuable support

THE Information Bureau of the RSVN PRG in Santiago received on May 15 30,000 escudos and a letter from Jaled, 13, Nabil, 11 and Fauxi, 9, children of Mohamed Shakhtour, a Palestinian resident. The letter was addressed to Vietnamese children. It wrote:

"This modest contribution — 30,000 escudos — is our savings since the days we were born. We send them to you with all our love, and with the realization that all the money in the world cannot compensate the sacrifices you have been making. You and your parents, with your own lives, are defending your land and liberating it from the hands of the Yankee imperialist aggressors."

"We will beat the ugly imperialists everywhere in the world! Long live Viet Nam, the vanguard and model of all revolutions in the world!" the letter concluded.

An unforgettable welcome

On May 20 when Nixon arrived at Maxglan airport in Salzburg, Austria, in his presidential Boeing, hundreds of antiwar protesters were staging a demonstration outside the airport gate shouting "Nixon-Murderer!" The same hostile cries greeted him when his car sped toward the city.

A few hours earlier, over 3,000 people including the son of the Austrian Chancellor, and Swiss, Italian and West German residents had demonstrated in the city against Nixon's "Vietnamization."

The same afternoon 500 young Austrians from various parts of the country converged on the square outside the main railway station chanting "Victory to the Viet Cong!" "Nixon-Nuremberg!"

According to *UPI*, members of the US President's party were stunned. One veteran of many presidential visits said for more than a year Nixon had not faced such insults at home or abroad.

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION